

Claims

- 5 1. Method of configuring a business process for scheduling,
the business process comprising a plurality of activities, each activity comprising at least one of a start date type and a stop date type; the activities being in a time relationship to each other; wherein
the business process is freely configurable with respect to the plurality of activities and with respect to the time relationships of the activities to each other.
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2. The method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein a technical ID is associated with an activity or with a date type.
- 15 3. The method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein a text is associated with an activity or with a date type, the text being descriptive for the activity or for the date type.
4. The method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein time units are
20 assigned to specific date types, the time units being freely configurable for each date type.
5. The method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein an activity can be modeled as a plurality of sub-processes.
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6. The method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein a sub-process comprise a plurality of activities.
7. The method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein a decision
30 whether or not a delegation is invoked is during run-time of the scheduling.

8. The method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein said service functions being usable for determination of time zone, calendar and duration of an activity.
- 5 9. The method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein at least one service function is assigned to at least one activity, the service function being usable, during scheduling, for determining start date and/ or finish date of the at least one activity.
- 10 10. The method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein at least one delegation scheme is assigned to at least one activity, the delegation the service function being usable for invoking, during scheduling, an external application for determining start date and/ or finish date of the at least one activity.
- 15 11. The method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein the activities and their time relationship are representable as a network of nodes and edges, each node representing one of the plurality of activities, and each edge connecting a pair of nodes and representing a predecessor-successor relationship of the activities represented by the respective pair of nodes.
- 20 12. The method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein a scheduling scheme is produced based on the configured business process, whereby the scheduling scheme is a set of meta data descriptive of how the individual activities are to be processed within scheduling.
- 25 13. The method according to claim 1, wherein a scheduling scheme is associated to the business process, the scheduling scheme comprising configuration data to at least one of duration, calendar, and time zone.
- 30 14. The method according to one of the preceding claims, wherein a scheduling scheme is associated to the business process, the scheduling scheme comprising configuration data to at least one of service function, and delegation process model.

15. A method of scheduling a business process, whereby the business process is configured with the method preferably according to claim 1.
- 5 16. Method of configuring a production process for simulating,
the production process comprising a plurality of steps, each step comprising at
least one of a start date type and a stop date type; the steps being in a time re-
lationship to each other; wherein
the production process is freely configurable with respect to the plurality of
10 steps and with respect to the time relationships of the steps to each other.
17. A computer system for performing the method according to one of the preced-
ing claims.
- 15 18. A computer-readable storage medium comprising program code for perform-
ing the method according to one of claims 1 to 16, when loaded into a com-
puter system.